

SENATE BILL 2788

By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, relative to the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts. This act makes appropriations of a sum certain for the 1998-1999 fiscal year for the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

WHEREAS, the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts serves cultural, historic and artistic needs as well as educational ones for this region, the state, the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts is the only crafts center in the southeast that offers a bachelor's degree in fine arts as well as certificate degrees in five mediums – wood, glass, fibers, ceramics and metals; and

WHEREAS, in addition to professional and degree programs, the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts offers well planned, well designed and well executed continuing education workshops for beginning and professional crafts people as well as the public and elderhostel crafts programs to keep the traditional skills of mountain settlers alive for the next generation; and

WHEREAS, the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts gallery features the work of students and showcases the finest examples of contemporary and traditional work from artisans in thirteen (13) Appalachian states which are seen by approximately one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) visitors each year; and

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WHEREAS, the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts has as its primary objectives education and training of artists and designers in both contemporary and traditional craft concepts and techniques, marketing crafts and preserving, through documentation and exhibition, the craft tradition of the Appalachian region; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 8, is amended by adding Section 2 through 4 of this act as a new part.

SECTION 2. There is established the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts, which shall operate as a division of the Tennessee Technological University to:

(1) Continue ownership and operation of the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts at Center Hill Lake, transferred to the university on July 1, 1985.

(2) Develop, stimulate and preserve the tradition of crafts in Tennessee by offering not only professional crafts, but also experience in the areas of marketing, promotion, exhibition/display work – all of those skills necessary to help a craftsman become an independent business person as well as a proficient and creative artist.

(3) Provide technical and artistic training to people who want to work in any of the five (5) major media areas: clay, fibers, glass, metals and wood.

(4) Preserve through documentation and exhibition, the craft tradition of Tennessee.

(5) Continue to offer a bachelor of fine arts, a bachelor of science in crafts, a certificate program in crafts, and an apprentice program in crafts.

SECTION 3. The Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts shall be operated as a free-standing unit of Tennessee Technological University with a separate budget, but with the ability to draw on university managerial, financial, technical and instructional resources.

SECTION 4. The initial state appropriation for the Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Crafts for the 1998-1999 fiscal year shall be eight hundred thirty-one thousand nine hundred

eighty dollars (\$831,980), and such sum is hereby appropriated to the center. The appropriation shall be in addition to all other funds available to the center. Tennessee Technological University is directed to include at least the amount in its budget request for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, the public welfare requiring it.